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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 040373-0280

Applicant: Takanobu IHARA  
Title: PRIVATE BRANCH  
EXCHANGE SYSTEM  
Appl. No.: 09/551,547  
Filing Date: 4/18/2000  
Examiner: Tilahun Gesesse  
Art Unit: 2685

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Assistant Commissioner:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form SB08 is a listing of document(s) known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of the listed document(s) is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of the first action but before the mailing date of either a final action or notice of allowance under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), and is accompanied by a statement specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)**

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

The document listed on the attached PTO-1449 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding Australian application. A copy of an English language abstract of the listed documents, if available, is being provided. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider this document (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609).

It is believed that the instant information disclosure statement is being filed prior to the mailing date of any Notice of Allowance or Final Office Action. However, if this information disclosure statement is filed after the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance or Final Office Action, then applicant(s) hereby request(s) and authorize(s) the PTO to charge the petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Serial No. 09/551,547

Applicants respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialled copy of Form SB08 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

Respectfully submitted,

3-3-03  
Date

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.



2685

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Applicant: Takanobu IHARA

Title: PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE  
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Art Unit: 2685

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

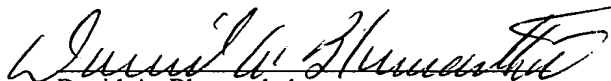
Commissioner:

I hereby certify that the following paper(s) and/or fee along with any attachments referred to or identified as being attached or enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a) on the date of deposit shown below with sufficient postage and in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231.

1. Information Disclosure Statement
2. PTO SB08 form (4 references enclosed)
3. Postcard

Respectfully submitted,

3-3-03  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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PIPE JCS  
MAR 11 2003  
PATENT OFFICE

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

**Date Submitted: March 3, 2003**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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**Complete if Known**

Application Number	09/551,547
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<b>Filing Date</b>	04/18/2000
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First Named Inventor	Takanobu IHARA
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Group Art Unit	2685
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Examiner Name	T. Gesesse
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Attorney Docket Number	040373-0280
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OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>o</sup>

Examiner  
Signature

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.